AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-14 as follows:

- 1. (Currently Amended) A DNA molecular size marker <u>comprising</u> that contains DNA fragments <u>of</u> which are 441, 325, 231, 210, 131, 116, 94 and 79 base pairs long (Figure 1-Marker B).
- 2. (Currently Amended) The A method for the production of the molecular size marker in claim 1 is done by isolation of claim 1, the method comprising:
- a) isolation of DNA from mycobacteriae,
- b) amplification of hsp65 gene by PCR,
- c) purification of DNA amplification products,
- d) molecular cloning into a plasmid vector,
- e) plasmid isolation of the plasmid vector, and
- f) restriction enzyme digestion.
- 3. (Currently Amended) The <u>method of claim 2, wherein the</u> species of mycobacteriae used for <u>the isolation of DNA produce DNA fragments of 441, 325, 231, 210, 131, 116, 94 and 79 base pairs isolation referred in claim 2 for production of the molecular size marker in claim 1, are the ones which produce the required size fragments indicated in claim 1.</u>
- 4. (Currently Amended) The <u>method of claim 3, wherein the</u> species of mycobacteriae <u>is selected from the group consisting of referred in claim 3 which are used for production of molecular weight marker referred in claim 1 are *M. simiae*, *M. smegmatis*, *M. gallinarum*, *M. intracellulare*, and *M. terrae*.</u>
- 5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein primers used in amplification of hsp65 gene referred in claim 2 are TB11 (5' ACC AAC GAT GGT GTG TCC AT 3'), and TB12 (5' CTT GTC GAA CCG CAT ACC CT 3') are used in the amplification of hsp65 gene.

- 12. (Currently Amended) The <u>method of claim 9, wherein</u> primers used in amplification of hsp65 gene referred in claim 9 are TB11 (5' ACC AAC GAT GGT GTG TCC AT 3'), and TB12 (5' CTT GTC GAA CCG CAT ACC CT 3') <u>are used in the amplification of hsp65 gene</u>.
- 13. (Currently Amended) The <u>method of claim 9, wherein the</u> restriction enzyme indicated in claim 9 is HaeIII.
- 14. (Currently Amended) Molecular size marker indicated in claim 8 is used in A method for determining the size of restriction fragments obtained by HaeIII digestion during digestion, in the step of electrophoretic analysis of hsp65 by PCR-REA, the method comprising the molecular size marker of claim 8 (Polymerase Chain Reaction—Restriction Enzyme Analysis) method.

- 6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the restriction enzyme indicated in claim 2 is BstEII.
- 7. (Currently Amended) Molecular size marker indicated in claim 1 is used in A method for determining the size of restriction fragments obtained by BstEII digestion during digestion, in the step of electrophoretic analysis of hsp65 by PCR-REA, the method comprising the molecular size marker of claim 1 (Polymerase Chain Reaction—Restriction Enzyme Analysis) method.
- 8. (Currently Amended) A DNA molecular size marker <u>comprising</u> that contains DNA fragments <u>of</u> which are 185, 161, 152, 139, 127, 103, 87, 69, 59, 58, 42, 40, 36 and 34 base pairs long (Figure 2 Marker H).
- 9. (Currently Amended) The A method for the production of the molecular size marker in claim 8 is done by isolation of claim 8, the method comprising:
- a) isolation of DNA from mycobacteriae,
- b) amplification of hsp65 gene by PCR,
- c) purification of DNA amplification products,
- d) molecular cloning into a plasmid vector,
- e) plasmid isolation of the plasmid vector, and
- <u>f</u>) restriction enzyme digestion.
- 10. (Currently Amended) The <u>method of claim 9, wherein the</u> species of mycobacteriae used for <u>the isolation of DNA produce DNA fragments of 185, 161, 152, 139, 127, 103, 87, 69, 59, 58, 42, 40, 36 and 34 base pairs isolation referred in claim 9 for production of the molecular size marker in claim 8, are the ones which produce the required size fragments indicated in claim 8.</u>
- 11. (Currently Amended) The <u>method of claim 10, wherein the</u> species of mycobacteriae <u>is selected from the group consisting of referred in claim 10 which are used for production of molecular weight marker referred in claim 1 are *M. tuberculosis*, *M. simiae*, *M. gallinarum*, *M. chitae*, <u>and</u> *M. xenopi*.</u>